

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-9, 11-13 and 15-29, are currently pending in the application. No claims have been amended.

None of the prior rejections based on prior art have been maintained. Claims 1-9, 11-13, and 15-29 have been rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,035,910 to Schaefer. This rejection is traversed without further amendment of the claims, as Schaefer does not read on the steps of the claimed method.

A main feature of the present invention is that a longitudinal compressive force is applied in the longitudinal direction, and this compressive force urges the leading wood group by a successive group immediately succeeding the leading group, and that the compressive force exceeds the cutting force. Furthermore, according to the invention, the first wood group acts as an abutment to absorb this longitudinal force.

The loading device 120 of Schaefer is not specified in its operation mode. The carrier 121 is not defined as a conveying apparatus as stated in the Office Action. The press rollers 122 cannot apply on the wood group a longitudinal force. They can apply only a transverse force (in vertical direction). Schaefer is silent with respect to a force in the longitudinal direction in connection with the carrier 121. Further, Schaefer is silent as to whether or not lateral chain walls 112 (see Figure 10) apply any force onto the last wood group in the longitudinal direction. Moreover, Schaefer is silent with respect to the amount of a longitudinal force which exceeds, according to the present invention, the cutting force.

In addition, Schaefer is silent with respect to the feature that the advancement speed of the leading group is braked such that the leading group acts as an abutment to substantially absorb said longitudinal force.

In Schaefer, pushers 241 and 242 (see Figure 2) of device 240 apply a not defined force to logs and not to wood groups. This force is longitudinal with respect to the direction of transportation, but not with respect to the logs. As can clearly be

seen from Figure 2 of Schaefer, the longitudinal direction of the logs is transfers to the pushers 241 and 242.

Furthermore, the entire description of Schaefer is silent with respect to the amount of the pressing force and the amount of the cutting force.

In addition, reference number 5 in Schaefer (see Figure 4 of Schaefer) does not correspond to a braking means as the office action states, but to a clamping means urging the boards 4 together, and the clamping means does not cooperate with a disk chipper (see Figure 2 of Schaefer), but a machining device 6 comprising two mutually opposed frustroconical cutter disks which are preferably designed as a profiling cutter.

In conclusion, several of the recited features of independent claims 1 and 11, and their dependent claims, are simply not present in (or suggested by) Schaefer. Therefore, all claims are not anticipated by Schaefer.

Claims 1-9, 11-13, and 15-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first and second paragraphs. These rejections are traversed.

With regard to the use of the term “wood groups”, it can be seen that the claims as originally filed with the application sets forth individual pieces of wood in groups (e.g., Figure 1). With regard to the use of the term “clamping means”, the Examiner’s is drawn to item 10 in Figures 2 and 5. With regard to claims 13 and 15, it is clear that claim 15 has the additional limitation that there are a “plurality” of chains, and that claim 15 narrows the conveyor to a plurality of overlapping chains. As such these features are fully supported by the specification and drawings as originally filed, and satisfy the requirements of both 35 U.S.C. 112, first and second paragraphs.

In view of the foregoing, it is requested that the application be reconsidered, that claims 1-9, 11-13, and 15-29 be allowed, and that the application be passed to issue.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at 703-787-9400 (fax: 703-787-7557; email: mike@wcc-ip.com) to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

If an extension of time is required for this response to be considered as being timely filed, a conditional petition is hereby made for such extension of time. Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-2041.

Respectfully submitted,



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